

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 057255

O R 162006Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7337
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 00726

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: ENRG, OECD, NO
SUBJECT: IEA - PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH NORWAY

REF: STATE 9363

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, EMBASSY DISCUSSED PROPOSED NORWEGIAN AGREEMENT WITH EGERTON (FCO ENERGY) WHO SAID HMG HAD SENT TEMPORIZING MESSAGE TO DAVIGNON, WHILE AWAITING US VIEWS, AND GIVEN NORWEGIANS AN AIDE MEMOIRE OUTLINING LEGAL DIFFICULTIES BRITISH SAW WITH REVISED DRAFT AGREEMENT. EGERTON STRONGLY DOUBTED UK COULD OPENLY SUPPORT US POSITION SINCE AT DECEMBER 18-19 MEETING OF IEA GOVERNING BOARD HMG HAD STATED THAT IT COULD ACCEPT SECOND DAVIGNON DRAFT ON AD REFERENDUM BASIS. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, HMG WAS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS AND ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT FOR IT TO BACK OFF COMPLETELY, UK IS USING LEGAL OBJECTIONS AS BASIS FOR OP-POSING REVISED DRAFT AGREEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO EGERTON, HMG HAS INSTRUCTED ITS EMBASSY IN OSLO TO INFORM NORWEGIANS THAT IN UK VIEW IEP AGREEMENT DOES NOT DIRECTLY ENVISAGE TYPE OF ASSOCIATION BEING PROPOSED TO NORWAY. BRITISH ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
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AGREEMENT'S AMBIGUITIES TO ARGUE THAT IT WOULD BE LEGALLY

MORE SOUND FOR ANY AGREEMENT TO BE CONCLUDED BETWEEN NORWAYW
AND MEMBER STATES OF IEA RATHER THAN WITH IEA ITSELF BASED
ON GOVERNING BOARD DECISION. HMG DOES NOT EXCLUDE POS-
SIBILITY OF IEA BEING ADDITIONAL PARTY TO SUCH AN AGREE-
MENT IF THERE IS A LEGAL NECESSITY FOR THIS. ALTERNATIVE
(AND PREFERABLY IN EGERTON'S OPINION), HMG IS PROPOSING
THAT MEMBER STATES SHOULD CONCLUDE SOME FORM OF PROTOCOL
TO MAIN IEP AGREEMENT WHICH COULD ENTER INTO FORCE NEXT
MAY, ALTHOUGH PROVISIONALLY IN FORCE BEFOREHAND.

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 162006Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7338

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 00726

EXDIS

3. EGERTON IS CONCERNED THAT CANADIANS MIGHT BE AT-
TRACTED TO AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT ALONG NORWEGIAN
LINES. HE CLAIMS SOME CANADIAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS
HAVE SAID ASSOCIATION IDEA COULD GAIN ENOUGH SUPPORT
WITHIN GOC TO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR FULL CANADIAN AD-
HERENCE. HE NOTED THERE COULD BE A SIMILAR REACTION
WITHIN UK. IDEA OF PROTOCOL TO MAIN IEP AGREEMENT APPEAL
TO EGERTON SINCE IT DID NOT INVOLVE A NEW AGREEMENT
BEING NEGOTIATED BEFORE MAIN IEP AGREEMENT IS HOME AND
DRY.

4. HMG HAS SUGGESTED TO DAVIGNON THAT HE CONSIDER TAKING

UP UK APPROACH WITH NORWAY. EGERTON HOPES TO HAVE RE-ACTIONS FROM DAVIGNON AND NORWEGIANS EARLY NEXT WEEK. HE ASSUMED SWEDES, DANES AND ITALIANS, WHO WERE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO GET NORWEGIANS ON BOARD, WOULD BE UNHAPPY WITH BOTH UK AND US APPROACHES.

5. EGERTON COMMENTED THAT SUBSTANCE OF SUGGESTED US CHANGES WERE TOUGH BUT NOT UNEXPECTED. HE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT SCARE OFF NORWEGIANS WHO CERTAINLY WOULD BE PRESENTED WITH PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEMS IF THEY ACCEPTED THEM.

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